

REMARKS

Claims 4, 6, 9, and 14-21 are pending in the application including independent claims 4, 6, 9, 16, and 17. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, and 10-13 have been cancelled. New dependent claims 22-27 have been added. Claims 6 and 14 are indicated as allowable and 16 has been allowed.

Figure 2 has been revised to show arrows for reference numbers 14 and 16. Figure 4 has also been revised as requested by the examiner.

The specification has been revised to refer to reference numbers 14 and 16 as brake shoe assemblies. The specification has also been revised to include an antecedent basis for the term connector portion.

The examiner has objected to claims 12-14. The examiner's objections are moot in light of the amendments made above. Claims 6, 9-15, and 17-21 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejections.

Claims 4, 9-13, 15, and 17-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zawondi in view of Majewski. As discussed with the examiner in a teleconference on July 11, 2003, independent claims 4, 9, and 17 have been amended to clarify the attachment interface between the retainer clip and the backing plate of the brake shoe. The combination of Zawondi and Majewski do not disclose, suggest, or teach the features set forth in the claims as amended.

Applicant believes all claims are now in condition for allowance and an indication of such is requested. Applicant believes no additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized

to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees, or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

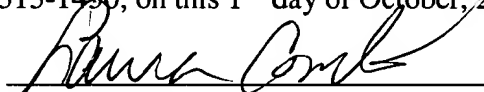


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Dated: October 1, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 1st day of October, 2003.


Laura Combs